



## **PUBLIC DISCLOSURE COMMISSION**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS ISSUED CIVIL PENALTIES AT ENFORCEMENT HEARING**

**Olympia** – Chair of the Public Disclosure Commission, Christine Yorozu, found 89 elected and 13 appointed officials in violation of state Public Disclosure laws during brief enforcement hearings held Tuesday in Olympia.

Elected officials and certain state appointed officials are required under state statute to file an annual Personal Financial Affairs Statement with the Public Disclosure Commission by April 15<sup>th</sup> reporting financial activity for the preceding year.

“Filing reports that disclose financial interests and holdings is more than a formality,” Yorozu said. “It’s a means for the public to have tangible proof that officials are acting in the public’s interest and not for their private gain.”

The governmental officials who were issued a civil penalty had previously been sent two warning letters asking them to comply with the reporting requirements. A letter reminding each official of his or her obligation to file was sent on May 6, 2002 and letter with an opportunity to pay a \$50 fine and forego an enforcement hearing was sent on May 21, 2002.

Officials found in violation at the hearing will have an opportunity to ask the full, five-member Commission to review the action taken by the Chair.

Government officials from Northwest Washington who were assessed a penalty at the brief enforcement hearing are:

<b>Erik Pearson</b> , College Board Member, Western Washington University	\$150 Penalty
<b>Cecil Koch</b> , City Council Member, City of Granite Falls	\$150 Penalty
<b>A Ragan</b> , City Council Member, City of Mount Vernon	\$150 Penalty
<b>Laura Sonmore</b> , City Council Member, City of Mountlake Terrace	\$100 Penalty
<b>Jimmy Porter</b> , City Council Member, City of Sultan	\$150 Penalty
<b>Margo Powell</b> , Hospital Commissioner, Snohomish Hospital District	\$150 Penalty
<b>Victor Benson</b> , Fire Commissioner, Skagit Fire Protection District	\$300 Penalty
<b>Tonja-Jolene Harmon</b> , Parks & Recreation Commissioner, N Whidbey	\$50 Penalty
<b>Nancy Llewellyn</b> , School Director, LaConner SD	\$300 Penalty
<b>David Hedlin</b> , School Director, LaConner SD	\$300 Penalty
<b>Al Kiefer</b> , Fire Commissioner, Whatcom Fire Protection District	\$150 Penalty
<b>Balisa Weber</b> , School Director, Conway SD	\$350 Penalty
<b>Sheri Folsom</b> , School Director, Meridian SD	\$100 Penalty*

On Tuesday, Yorozu also levied civil penalties to three lobbyist employers for failure to file annual employer reports due February 28, 2002. Laidlaw Transit, SBC Telecom Inc., and the Washington State Association of Independent Outpatient Programs were each fined \$500.

\*\$50 was suspended on the condition that no further violations occur for 3 years

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